



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summary

MILITARY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT SUMMARY

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AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE

BULLDOG T MK1 XW613

Date: 16 October 1992

Parent Station: RAF Aldergrove

Place of Accident: 15 nautical miles East of Belfast

Crew: Two Pilots: instructor and student.

Casualties: Instructor with fatal injuries
Student with major injuries

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. During the afternoon of 16 October 1992, Bulldog T Mk1 XW613 of Queen's University Air Squadron, was recovering to Belfast City Airport, when it suffered an engine stoppage. During an attempted forced landing into a field near Comber, the aircraft crashed into a hedge-topped stone wall and was destroyed. The captain was fatally injured, and the student received major injuries.

CAUSE

2. The cause of the accident was determined to be an unsuccessful attempt at a forced landing following total loss of engine power, probably brought about by fuel starvation. Although the evidence was inconclusive, the fuel starvation was most probably the result of a fuel leak from a loose union to the inlet of the fuel filter. It was considered that, given the nature of the terrain, the captain was faced with a very difficult forced landing and that he did his best to save the aircraft; therefore, no blame was allocated to him or his student.

SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

3. Operating procedures and training requirements have been reviewed, and revised where applicable, to minimize the risks involved in attempted forced landings. Further investigations will seek to improve the survivability aspects of landings which involve high decelerations.